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## Team Anna's former blogger Raju Parulekar 'exposes its twisted side' on twitter

Aditya Menon | Mail Today | New Delhi, August 5, 2012 | UPDATED 10:05 IST



Just as [Arvind Kejriwal](#) was preparing to break his fast as well as announce his team's decision to float a political party on Friday, a trenchant critic of Team Anna surreptitiously began "exposing" what he calls their "twisted" side. Mumbai-based journalist and Anna Hazare's former blogger Raju Parulekar used the same tool that has extensively been employed by Team Anna â€” the social media â€” to attack them.

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India must be apportioned much of the share of the blame for deteriorating bilateral relations. The facts surrounding the deaths of Indian soldiers are still disputed but the initial Indian claim that one of them was beheaded now seems to be incorrect.

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**Daily Times**  
Pakistan accused India of "war mongering" and lodged an official protest after another soldier was killed in disputed Kashmir in a flare-up that threatens to derail a fragile peace process.

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Knowing well that "Anna Hazare" and "Arvind Kejriwal" would be among the trending topics on the Internet with their fast reaching its climax on Friday, Parulekar posted an article on Twitter titled-"Anna, Kejriwal: Twisted Lies and Malpractices". In the article, Parulekar has repeated by the others.

He claims that even Anna Hazare's finances are in the control of Kejriwal and Co. He quotes Hazare as having told him, "my money lies in their accounts so you better speak to them". Hazare's former blogger also recollects an argument between the residents of Ralegan Siddhi and Kejriwal over all the donations for 'Brand Anna' being kept by the latter and his organisation the Public Cause Research Foundation (PCRF).

The confusion arose as donations began coming in for the "Anna Movement", which didn't have a bank account.

Some gave money to India Against Corruption but much of the funds, Parulekar claims, went to the PCRF. It is here that the article begins stepping in muddy waters and Parulekar shifts from attacking Kejriwal and Co. for controlling Anna to a diatribe against Hazare himself.

"Why is Anna easily blackmailed by Kejriwal and trio? Then I stumbled on its bilateral process. I began with donations, funds, PCRF, accounts, tax returns etc." Parulekar wrote. He goes on to highlight alleged instances of corruption in Hazare's own outfits. Parulekar also suggests that Hazare uses fasts as a blackmail tactic rather than a tool of moral protest.

Team Anna has consistently downplayed the accusations made by Parulekar, terming them as mischievous and unsubstantiated. "We have always refrained from responding to these (Parulekar's) allegations. No one in the team will comment on them," Team Anna's media co-ordinator Aswathi Muralidharan said.

### Blow from Hegde

Former Lokayukta and retired Supreme Court judge Santosh Hegde has dealt a severe blow to Team Anna by declaring that he does not support the idea of Anna Hazare or any of his campaigners floating a political party.

Hegde, who has gradually distanced himself from Team Anna since January after the anti-corruption movement took multiple formats, said, "I don't support Anna Hazare and his team starting a political party. But I have heard Anna speaking on TV that he is neither forming a party nor contesting elections, but may support people wanting to contest elections, whom he knows will help fight against corruption and bring about political change in the country."

### Crusader's political plans worry BJP

Team Anna's political plans have made the saffron family edgy.

Both the BJP and its ideological mentor, RSS, whose covert support helped social activist Anna Hazare turn into a crowd-pulling anti-corruption messiah, feel that Hazare's entry into politics may end up harming the party's poll prospects.

The BJP's immediate concern is the upcoming elections in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh where it runs the government. If Hazare and his team were to prop up their own candidates or even support someone else (going by their assertion of supporting "clean candidates"), the BJP stands to lose in both the states.

Key Team Anna member Arvind Kejriwal had once locked horns with HP chief minister Prem Kumar Dhumal over a strong Lokpal.

With his strong views on Kashmir and the Naxal violence, Prashant Bhushan is at variance with the BJP's core ideology. A BJP source said Kiran Bedi had unsuccessfully tried seeking a ticket from the party.

The saffron party will need deft handling by its crisis managers to contain the damage likely to be done by Hazare's team.

Trying to convince Team Anna to join hands with them would help the BJP fight the common enemy â€” the Congress-led UPA.

-With inputs from Vanu Dev

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
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